cult rather than Buddhism should be dominant. While they witnessed the years of the greatest prosperity of Chinese Buddhism, they were also largely responsible for its slow decline. The Confucianism of the Tang and the literary style of the Tang showed modifications in what had been handed down from preceding periods.

The Sui and the Tang, then, were not only a brilliant age to which the Chinese rightly look back with pride. They witnessed distinctive changes and in some respects fresh advances over earlier eras.

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